

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-13 and 15-20 are pending. Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 15 and 18-20 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, thus no new matter has been added thereby. Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims.

Drawings:

Applicants acknowledged the Examiner's indication that the drawings submitted on 18 February 2004 have been reviewed and determined to be acceptable as submitted.

Specification:

As requested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended the Abstract to place it into compliance with MPEP §608.01(b). No new matter has been added thereby.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 4-6, 15-18 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the features of the base and intervening claims.

Accordingly, Claims 4, 15, 18 and 20 have been rewritten into independent form and are therefore now in condition for allowance.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 4 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 4 as well as for the novel features which they add. Claims 16 and 17 depend from Claim 15 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 15 as well as for the novel features which they add. Claim 19 depends from Claim 18 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 18 as well as for the novel feature which it adds.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a):

Claims 1-3, 7, 9-11, 14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Morton (USPN 4,724,316). Claims 8 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Morton. Applicants respectfully traverse and overcome the rejections as follows.

Claim 1 has been amended to set forth, *inter alia*, “an injector operable to inject a light signal into the first end of the optical fiber; and a detector operable to detect a reflected portion of the light signal at the first end of the optical fiber...” Applicant could find no teaching or suggestion in Morton that discloses an injector and a detector located at the same end of the fiber, where the detector can receive reflected light.

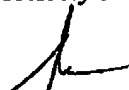
In contrast, Morton discloses, as shown in Figs. 1 and 7, a “light source” located at a first end of the fiber and a “receiver” located at a second end of the fiber. Applicant could find no teaching of suggestion in Morton that the receiver is intended to detect “reflected” light. Accordingly, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Morton and thus, claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 3 and 7-13 depend from Claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 as well as for the novel features which they add.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, pending Claims 1, 3-13 and 15-20 are in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at 949-955-1920 is welcomed and encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,



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[X] Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d), I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being sent via facsimile on the date indicated below to the attention of Examiner <u>JERRY T. RYAN</u>	
Dated: September 26, 2005	Name of Person Certifying: Printed Name: <u>CARRIE CHEN</u>